

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC 2518

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8689

E.O. 11652:XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR EC AU FR

SUBJ: BIO INFORMATION ON ANTONIO JOSE LUCIO PAREDES, NEW ECUADOREAN
AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA

REF: 75 QUITO 7776

1. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED DEC. 14 THAT ANTONIO JOSE
LUCIO PAREDES, ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, HAS BEEN
NAMED TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AS AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA. LUCIO
WILL REMAIN RESIDENT IN PARIS, WHERE HE ALSO SERVES AS
ECUADOREAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO.

2. LUCIO PAREDES WAS APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER BY GENERAL
RODRIQUEZ LARA ON FEBRUARY 21, 1972, SHORTLY AFTER RODRIGUEZ
TOPPLED THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT OF THE TIME. HIS RESIG-
NATION WAS ACCEPTED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1975, ALONG WITH THOSE
OF THE REMAINDER OF THE CABINET, FOLLOWING THE UNSUCCESSFUL
COUP ATTEMPT AGAINST RODRIGUEZ LARA OVER THE LABOR DAY
WEEKEND. LUCIO PAREDES, HOWEVER, AD WANTED TO LEAVE THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR SOME TIME, AND HAD APPARENTLY PREVIOUSLY
BEEN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE PARIS ASSIGNMENT BY HAVING
HAD A TRUSTED FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, HERNAN GUARDERAS,
APPOINTED COUNSELOR (AND CHARGE).

3. WE HAVE FOUND LUCIO PAREDES TO BE CONSISTENTLY COURTEOUS
AND HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH DURING HIS TENURE AS FOREIGN MINISTER,
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ECUADORE OCCASIONALLY
CAST HIM IN AN ADVERSARY ROLE. AS HEAD OF THE ONLY ALL-
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CIVILIAN MINISTRY IN A NATIONALISTIC MILITARY GOVERNMENT,

HE OCCASIONALLY SEEMED UNDER CONSTRAINT TO APPEAR APPROPRIATELY VIGOROUS IN PROCLAIMING AND DEFENDING ECUADOREAN INTERESTS. HE HAS DONE SO, HOWEVER, WITHOUT EXACERBATING US-ECUADOREAN DIFFERENCES. LUCIO PAREDES REMAINS A FRIEND AND NOT-UNCritical ADMIRER OF THE US, BUT HE IS ABOVE ALL ECUADOREAN, AND HAS BEEN AN ARDENT, CAPABLE DEFENDER OF HIS COUNTRY'S POLICIES.

4. UNASSUMING AND UNPRETENTIOUS, LUCIO PAREDES HAS WIDE EXPEREINCE OF THE WORLD AND IS A COSMOPOLITAN MAN. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT FRENCH, VERY GOOD ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE AS WELL AS SPANISH, AND HAD BEEN PROFESSOR OF DIPLOMATIC LAW AT QUITO'S CENTRAL UNIVERSITY. HE IS APPRECIATIVE OF AND RESPONDS TO SINCERE PERSONAL ATTENTIONS. HIS WIFE IS BRAZILIAN, THE FORMER RUTH FERNANDES, WHOM HE MET WHILE A STUDENT AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN RIO DE JANEIRO. THE LUCIO PAREDES HAVE THREE CHILDREN, ONE A DEAF MUTE WHO IS A TALENTED PAINTER. RUTH FERNANDES DE LUCIO PAREDES SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND EXCELLENT FRENCH, AS WELL AS HER NATIVE PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH, AND IS THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY, RIGHT-WING BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER. SHE HAS PROMOTED AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM OF ENGLISH STUDY FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY WIVES WHICH WAS RUN BY USIS AT HER REQUEST.

5. LUCIO PAREDES IS 52, BORN 13 DECEMBER 1923. A CAREER DIPLOMAT, HE ENTERED THE ECUADOREAN FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1944, AND HAS SERVED IN MADRID, RIO DE JANEIRO, AND BRUSSELS, AS AMBASSADOR TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES FROM FEBRUARY 1971 TO FEBRUARY 1972; AND AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM 1968-71. WIDELY TRAVELED, HE REPRESENTED ECUADOR AT THE 10TH AND 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF AMERICAN STATES (1954 AND 1966); AT THE AIR TRAFFIC NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON IN 1967; AND AT TALKS WITH WEST GERMAN AND FRENCH AUTHORITIES ON AERONAUTICAL MATTERS IN 1967. HE WAS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OAS FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN APRIL 1974, AND CHAIRED THE OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN QUITO IN NOVEMBER OF THAT YEAR.
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